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Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

August 2 – August 9, 2002

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"...I don't say I'm better than anybody else, but I'll be damned if I ain't just as good." – Oklahoma, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein

State Upholds Revocation of Charter School Charter

The University issued this statement when notified of the State Superintendent's decision:

We are shocked that the Office of the Superintendent of the Illinois State Board of Education has upheld Crete-Monee School District 201-U's revocation of the charter of the Governors State University Charter School on narrow, technical grounds. The decision ignores the fact that the children in the school have outperformed students in other schools in the district.

This outrageous action is a blow to the well being of our children and could signal the end of the charter school movement in Illinois.

We will seek to have the decision reversed.

It is our intention to continue to operate the school, depending on legal and budgetary considerations.

Enrollment Figures Holding Strong

Enrollment for the fall trimester is up 5.5 percent over the same period last year. Credit hours are up nearly 1.5 percent. "We're getting a boost by being able to admit students into the Master of Social Work and Physical Therapy programs. Last fall, we were not accepting students into those programs," said Larry Polselli, executive director of enrollment services. "The good news is that if you exclude the MSW and PT students, headcount is still up."

Pinpointing Opportunities

Enrollment Services and the colleges have targeted specific groups and areas for special attention. Three examples. The College of Health Professions is working with El Valor to offer on-site courses in communications disorders. El Valor is a bilingual, bicultural family center serving the Hispanic community. It offers a broad variety of family support and educational programs, including vocational training and advanced degree opportunities. The Colleges of Business and Public Administration and Health Professions and the Board of Governors Program have teamed up to offer on-site courses to the hospitals in the Advocate Hospital system. And the colleges and BOG are working in partnership with Joliet Junior College to offer GSU courses at Lincolnway.

It's About Time: The University Community Gets to See its Budget

Governors State budget for FY02–03 will soon be distributed. The university's largest budget cuts were for equipment, down 20 percent and travel, down 25 percent. But some areas were barely touched, if at all. Spending for adjunct faculty is about equal with FY02. Investment in marketing and enrollment is equal with FY02. "Based on everything we know today, we should be able to survive the State's mid-year rescission without any further cuts. But there's no guarantee that the State may want a greater rescission than we projected," said Jeff Slovak, Budget Director. "Managing a budget in this environment is more art than science. We'll be cautious in approving expenditures, but we'll fund programs that can drive enrollment and revenue."

This Could Lead to Something Wonderful

Governors State will begin recruiting at the Northwestern College of Business, a private two-year college with campuses in Hickory Hills, Chicago, and Naperville. Northwestern has approximately 2,500 students. Its undergraduate programs include business, technology (computers), and health professions. Lisa Hendrickson, Transfer Coordinator, met with Northwestern program directors on August 2 as a first step to develop a program to bring Northwestern graduates to GSU. Historically, Northwestern has discouraged other universities from contacting their students. Northwestern recognizes our unique structure and mission and is seeking to establish a relationship with GSU.

Innovator Dispute Still Making Headlines

Local papers, the Associated Press, CNN, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, are running stories about the lawsuit the former editors of the student paper, *The Innovator*, filed against the university. The suit by a few students was originally filed around the end of 2000 and named 15 defendants. The court dismissed the cases of all but one defendant. The university is appealing that decision.

GSU ScholarShip Sails

Ralph Bell, College of Health Professions, has been reappointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Health Administration Education*. The *Journal of Physical Therapy Education* will publish an article by Ann Vendrely in its fall issue. Also from the College of Health Professions, Jay Shen and Kyusuk Chung presented papers at the annual Association of Health Services Research and Quality meetings. Dr. Chung's abstract of his paper was one of the few selected to be highlighted in the proceedings.